

The Daily Charge

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Operation Iraqi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Thursday, April 8, 2004



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

1st Cavalry Division Soldiers line up for their cash from finance specialists of the 15th Finance Battalion at Camp Victory North. Soldiers can cash personal checks for up to \$200 per week while deployed.

Show Me The Money

Pay Issues Handled, Check Cashing Made Easier for Soldiers by 15th FB

By Sgt. Dan Purcell
122nd MPAD

Theater-wide, getting paid has just become easier thanks to the efforts of the 15th Finance Battalion (FB) from Fort Hood, Texas.

The III Corps unit opened its doors on Victory North to assist Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division with their financial needs.

"Right now, we are helping Soldiers on a limited basis until we can get connected to the Internet," explained Staff Sgt. Victoria Asher, finance non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "Soldiers can get \$350 a month in casual pay, we can cash personal checks for up to \$200 a week, and we also han-

dle the Savings Deposit Program."

Asher said the biggest pay problem Soldiers encounter is not receiving their deployment-related benefits on time, especially hostile-fire pay.

"This is largely because their deployment time wasn't calculated correctly, but we can help them get it worked out," Asher explained.

Other pay problems Soldiers may have incurred prior to entering Iraq can be dealt with, but Asher emphasizes that these Soldiers must bring all applicable documents to resolve their issues.

Additionally, the 15th FB has set up Financial Support

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Transporter a Driving Force for OIF II

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

Transportation Soldiers may never know where they will be or what they will be hauling from one mission to the next. The load could be several hundred pounds or several hundred tons, depending upon who wants what where.

"I'm sure I'll see every little nook and cranny of this place before I'm through here," said Spc. Jordan Scanlan, a Greensboro, N.C. native. "We haul anything and

everything to anywhere and everywhere in Iraq."

Just over 10 months ago, Scanlan enlisted in the Army Reserves. Now, not even a year later, he finds himself a member of a forward detachment with the 227th Transportation Co., out of Albemarle, N.C. His unit is almost constantly conveying personnel, equipment and everything else from Kuwait to Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Lately, we've also been helping the 1st Armored Division move their stuff down

to Kuwait as their tour here wraps up," the 23-year-old said.

"Since so many of us came from one of the 81st [Regional Readiness Commands] and from other states, the only chance we've had to really get to know each other was while we were mobilizing," Scanlan said.

Scanlan's unit mobilized out of Fort Eustis, Va.

"My unit's mobilization only took about four and a half weeks," he said. "We flew out of Langley Air Force Base on

the 13th of March, right as the sun was going down."

Ever since their plane touched down in Kuwait, Scanlan's unit has been hard at work.

"We drove up to the Kuwait-Iraq border, the same night we arrived in Kuwait, and we've been conveying stuff around ever since," Scanlan said. "We really hit the ground running."

Despite being here just under a month, Scanlan's unit has already been hit by

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15th Finance Office Provides Convenience

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Teams (FST) throughout Baghdad, making their services more convenient for Soldiers to receive. These teams can be found at Victory South, Camps Black Jack and Cuervo and Junction City.

The current finance office is only temporary. Asher said the foundation for a new facility has just been laid. She said it will be located across from the post office.

Finance is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except at Camp Black Jack where it is open until 3 p.m., and for those other remote locations that are interested in a FST set up then they need to contact the main office, Asher added.

"We are excited to be here," 1st Lt. Sarah Giardina, chief of dispersing, said. "This is not a cashless society yet, and many soldiers prefer having cash on hand rather than using their debit or credit cards all the time."

Keeping Vehicles Moving Gets The Job Done

Continued from Page 1
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and had contact with insurgent forces.

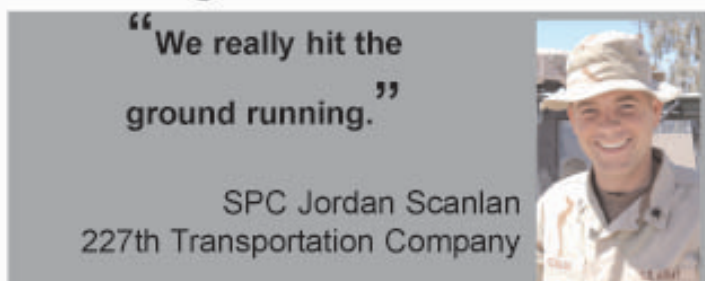
"We've had IEDs explode in front of and behind our vehicles, and we've reacted to small-arms fire," he said. "Luckily we haven't had any injuries yet."

Even though he now finds himself in a hostile environment, military service was a natural fit for Scanlan. It runs in the family.

"My Dad was a staff sergeant in the Army Reserves out of New York in the 1960s. He worked in communications," Scanlan said. "And my grandfather was a captain in the Air Force during World War II. He was a meteorologist, studying weather for B-52s during missions."

"So family tradition definitely played a part in my decision to enlist," added Scanlan. "The lynch-pin that got me to sign up for the Army was the college money."

Although Scanlan attended college at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro



(UNCG) off and on after he graduated from high school in 1998, he intends to complete his degree when he returns home.

"When I get back home, I'm going to go back to college at the UNCG," he predicted. "I was majoring in International Business and working toward a minor in Spanish, because eventually I'd like to get a job with a resort construction company and be some sort of resort manager outside the U.S."

Scanlan added that while he's also considering joining the Reserve Officer Training Corps at UNCG, he still has many missions to complete here, and it's not going to be easy.

"We've got pretty difficult missions over here, the long distances, the high-risks and

the short notices," said Scanlan. "Whatever happens though, we're always able to keep the vehicles moving, and that's all it really takes to get the job done."

A typical mission for the transportation specialist can last anywhere from eight to twelve days and cover hundreds of miles. All that roadwork doesn't leave much time for rest and relaxation.

"We're kind of like transients: we float into a place, stay there for a day or two, and then move on to do another mission," Scanlan said with a chuckle. "We usually just pull out our cots and sleep right in the staging area of the motor pool at whatever camp our mission takes us to."

Thursday

High: 85
Low: 57



Friday

High: 87
Low: 55



Saturday

High: 90
Low: 58



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 11
6:30 - 7:10 a.m.



Location: South of Future Division
Headquarters at the base of Antenna Hill

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1CD CG Describes Fighting in Baghdad Area

► From Killeen Daily Herald

Two days after a fierce fight claimed the lives of seven Fort Hood Soldiers, order has been restored in Sadr City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood, and the families of the fallen 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers have been notified of their deaths.

"We are in control of that section of Sadr City," said Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, the 1st Cavalry's commander, in an exclusive interview with the *Killeen Daily Herald* on Tuesday via telephone from Baghdad.

"There is complete freedom of movement in Sadr City, and our Soldiers are continuing the mission," he said.

Sunday's fight, the fiercest of the Iraqi post-war era, erupted after 1st Cavalry Soldiers, on a routine patrol, spotted armed

Shiite militiamen guarding a building in violation of regulations implemented by the U.S.-led coalition, Chiarelli said.

"It was a normal patrol, kind of like the one they had done the day before," Chiarelli said. "The Soldiers approached them and told them what they were doing was illegal, and a firefight ensued."

The Iraqis fired on the Soldiers from rooftops and behind buildings, Chiarelli said. Realizing there were more militia in the area, the 1st Cavalry Soldiers attempted to leave the area but were ambushed at a makeshift road block.

Under attack from small-arms fire, automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, Chiarelli said the Soldiers called for reinforcements.

"A quick reaction force was launched to come in and extricate them. The team came down a parallel route where they, too, ran into another roadblock, where a second firefight

ensued," Chiarelli said. "Additional forces were committed to the fight,"

Chiarelli said. "The fight lasted fairly intensely for about three to four hours."

The troops took back police stations abandoned by Iraqi police, Chiarelli said. When it was over, seven 1st Cavalry and one 1st Armored Division Soldiers were killed. Another 49 Fort Hood Soldiers were wounded.

"The al-Mahdi Army set up a very, very intricate ambush in an area they were familiar with, but they paid a price," said

Chiarelli of the private militia formed by Muqtada al-Sadr, a Shiite cleric who has urged Iraqis in recent weeks to oust U.S. forces from Iraq. "We paid a price, but they continue to do so," Chiarelli said. "I will tell you a large number of the enemy were either killed or wounded. We captured 17."

The troops who were involved in the firefight were among the 1st Cavalry's first arrivals earlier this year.

Chiarelli emphasized that the battle's outcome and the heavy toll paid by his division were not caused by the troops' recent arrival in the Iraqi capital. The dynamics would have been the same had it been against 1st Armored troops who have been there 11 months, he said.

"It was a real, real tough fight," Chiarelli said. "The Soldiers have handled them-

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One Year After Return, Former POW Reflects on Time in Iraq

► From Fort Hood Sentinel

FORT HOOD, Texas—Shot, beaten, locked in a 7-by-7 room with no electricity, windows or plumbing, and held captive for 22 days, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dave Williams said he has reason to hate his captors, but he does not hold any animosity toward the Iraqi people.

"I'm not going to shun the whole community," he said. "The Iraqi people have the opportunity to live a new life. They don't have to live in fear anymore of a dictator."

The ethnic and religious diversity of the American Soldiers was puzzling to the Iraqis who held Williams and six other Soldiers captive a year

ago. "For us to be so diverse, the Iraqis could not comprehend it," Williams said. "One Iraqi officer, who spoke broken English, questioned me. You are American and your friends (are from different ethnic groups). You are all in the same Army and you do not fight each other. How can that be so?"

Williams responded by telling the Iraqi that in addition to Soldiers working together for their country, in America over eight million Muslims also live in peace with their neighbors, regardless of race or religion.

They simply could not understand or grasp the concept of equality, the democratic ideal, Williams explained.

"We have our faults, but I'm very proud of America."

He said he never thought his group wouldn't be rescued. The senior ranking officer of the prisoner of war group said it was this knowledge that helped him lead the other Soldiers and himself through the torture suffered at the hands of the Iraqis.

"People throughout their day-to-day business get irritated," the 30-year-old pilot explained. "But when the time of truth comes, Americans look after their own. Whether right or wrong, we are all one family. When we are abroad and someone is picking on my family, I'm going to get ugly."

Williams family has been enlarged by six members since



Williams

the events of March and April 2003. He stays in regular contact with his fellow POWs.

"Every week one of them will call me and let me know how they are doing," he said. "I want to know if I can help them anytime, anyway."

Ronald Young Jr., the other Fort Hood pilot captured with Williams has left the Army and is working as a regional representative for a military contracting company in Atlanta, Ga.

Sho'Shana Johnson has taken a medical discharge due to injuries suffered during her capture.

The other POWs, remain at their posts and in contact with Williams.

1CD Soldiers Withstand Attack

Continued from Page 3

selves absolutely magnificently.

"We have great Soldiers doing their mission the way they were trained to do their mission and great leaders," Chiarelli said. "I ran into a second lieutenant who was wounded in the leg. The next morning, he went back down into Sadr City. He was not going to stay at the medical station. He went right back down with his Soldiers."

Handling a large number of wounded, Chiarelli said the division's medical teams, doctors and mechanics "did a phenomenal job" supporting the unit involved in the attack. Several of the wounded were treated for minor shrapnel

wounds and returned to duty, Chiarelli said.

"There will be a lot of Soldiers who probably will be showing up at Fort Hood or BAMC (Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio) where they will receive medical care and convalescent leave," Chiarelli said.

In a separate incident Monday, Chiarelli confirmed the death of another 1st Cavalry Soldier.

Chiarelli said that as of Tuesday, the families of the division's eight casualties had been notified. He could not confirm if all the families of the wounded had been contacted.



Chiarelli

Information about the unit and the Soldiers' identities will be withheld until those families are notified, Chiarelli said.

Despite continued unrest Tuesday that spread to four other Iraqi cities and Fallujah, the scene of a gruesome attack on four U.S. civilians a week ago, Chiarelli insisted the violence is isolated.

"We believe this is a small faction. By no means is it an uprising of the people," Chiarelli said.

"We had Iraqis on two separate occasions who offered their cars and a bus to assist us in evacuating the wounded," he said.

Today in History April 8

► From historychannel.com

1842 Elizabeth Bacon Custer is born in Michigan

1864 Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana

1899 The first woman is executed in the electric chair

1935 WPA established by Congress

1944 Writer Barbara Kingsolver is born

1945 Defiant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is hanged

1950 McCarthy publicly attacks Owen Lattimore

1952 Truman's Steel Seizure

1953 Kenyatta jailed for Mau Mau uprising

1972 North Vietnamese forces open a third front

1974 Aaron sets new home run record

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Pokemon: Johto League Championship Jackie Chan	The Late Show with David Letterman	Beyond The Glory	Masterpiece Theater 17:00 Every Woman 18:30
19:00	Jeopardy Headline News 19:30	Access Hollywood 19:30	Sportscenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNews Headline News 20:30	Dragonheart	NBA Fastbreak/ Totally NASCAR	The Simpsons The Cosby Show 20:30
21:00	Friends (2 episodes) Reel Time 21:55	A Streetcar Named Desire 21:45	NHL-Playoffs-1st Round Game: Dallas Stars @	American Idol
22:00	The Bachelor		Colorado Avalanche	Peter Jennings Reporting

Scores

NCAA Women's Basketball
Championship Game

UConn 70
Tennessee 61



MLB:

Chicago Sox 4
Kansas City 3

Texas 2
Oakland 1

NY Yankees 3
Tampa Bay 2

FIRST TEAM